



DPCC Fact Sheet: Tom Price, Extreme Washington Politician Who Wants to Privatize Medicare, End Guarantee of Full Coverage, and Take Away Families' Health Care

Topline Message Guidance:

- *Congressman Tom Price is one of the most extreme and partisan Washington insiders.*
- *His policies would have devastating consequences for workers and families. He even wants to tell women what to do with their own bodies and take away their access to birth control.*
- *Congressman Price wants to privatize Medicare, gut Medicaid, and repeal the ACA, taking away health care from millions of Americans.*
- *As a powerful Washington insider, Congressman Price traded over \$300,000 in stocks in health care companies while pushing for legislation that would affect their stock prices.*

Congressman Price's Extreme Policies Would Have Devastating Consequences for Workers and Families

Congressman Price is on a partisan political mission to rip apart our health care system. Congressman Price's plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would take away health coverage from 32 million people – leaving more people uninsured than before the ACA. [CBO, [1/17/17](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17]

- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that 18 million people would become uninsured in the first new plan year after repeal and by 2026, 32 million people would lose coverage. CBO also projects that premiums would go up between 20-25% in the first new plan year after repeal and about double by 2026. [CBO, [1/17/17](#)]
- The share of nonelderly people without insurance would increase from 11% to 21%, a higher rate of uninsurance than before the ACA because of the disruption to the nongroup insurance market. [Urban Institute, [12/6/16](#)]
- Of the 29.8 million newly uninsured, 22.5 million people would become uninsured as a result of eliminating the premium tax credits, the Medicaid expansion, and the individual mandate. The additional 7.3 million people would become uninsured because of the near collapse of the nongroup insurance market and 4.4 million kids would lose coverage, more than doubling the share of children without insurance. [Urban Institute, [12/6/16](#), [12/21/16](#)]

Congressman Price’s plan to repeal the ACA could cause three million people to lose their jobs. Congressman Price’s plan to repeal the ACA could lead to substantial job losses across multiple sectors of the economy and in every state, causing significant economic disruption. Nearly three million jobs could be lost if essential components of the ACA are repealed, and states could lose \$1.5 trillion in gross state product. You can find how your state would be affected [HERE](#). [The Commonwealth Fund, [1/5/17](#)]

Congressman Price’s plan to repeal the ACA would put insurance companies back in charge and take Americans back to the days when having a pre-existing condition made health care unaffordable. Despite widespread support for the ACA’s requirement that insurance companies accept all applicants, Congressman Price called protections for people with pre-existing conditions “a terrible idea” and his legislation to repeal and “replace” the ACA only offers protections for people who maintain continuous health coverage for the previous 18 months. This means that insurers would not be required to sell an affordable plan to anyone who did not have coverage for any period of time – even a small break in coverage. [New York Times, [11/30/16](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17]

- Most Americans have pre-existing conditions. Up to 133 million non-elderly Americans—just over half (51%) of the population—may have a pre-existing condition based on pre-ACA rules and insurance company discriminatory underwriting practices. Further, nearly one-third of the population went uninsured for at least one month during the two-year period beginning in 2013. Under Price’s requirement that individuals have continuous coverage for 18 months, at least one third of the population would lose coverage. [HHS, [01/05/17](#)]

Congressman Price’s Policy Priorities: Privatizing Medicare and Gutting Medicaid

President-elect Trump promised that he would not cut Medicare or Medicaid but cutting those programs is among Congressman Price’s top priorities. Congressman Price recently said he wants to overhaul Medicare “within the first six to eight months” of the Trump Administration through reconciliation. [The Hill, [11/17/16](#); CBS News, [11/29/16](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17]

Congressman Price’s effort to privatize Medicare and end the guarantee of full coverage could force seniors to pay more for care. Congressman Price wants to end the decades-old guarantee of full coverage by privatizing Medicare, and he also supports raising the eligibility age. Ending the guarantee of full coverage could force seniors to pay as much as 11% more for their health care. [Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17; CBO, [9/13](#)]

- According to CBO, a standard premium support or voucher proposal would increase Part B premiums for seniors by roughly 30% and the proportion of Medicare beneficiaries that spend at least 6% of their household income on premiums would double. [Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17; CBO, [9/13](#)]

Full repeal of the ACA could increase seniors' Medicare premiums, deductibles, and cost-sharing. The CBO estimated that full repeal of the ACA would increase Medicare spending by \$802 billion from 2016 to 2025. The increase in Medicare spending would likely lead to higher Medicare premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing for beneficiaries, and accelerate the insolvency of the Medicare Part A trust fund. [Kaiser Family Foundation, [12/13/16](#)]

Congressman Price's plan would cut Medicaid by \$2.1 trillion, resulting in tens of millions of uninsured or underinsured Americans. As Chairman of the House Budget Committee, Congressman Price proposed radically restructuring Medicaid by converting it to a block grant, cutting federal funding by about \$1 trillion (or 34%) over the next decade. Such a cut would inevitably cause states to offer fewer benefits and reduce the number of people covered, in addition to the 14 million Americans who would lose their coverage if Medicaid expansion is repealed. [CBPP, [3/15/16](#); New York Times, [11/30/16](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17]

As a Washington Insider, Price Has Used His Position to Make Money for Himself and His Cronies

Congressman Price traded more than \$300,000 in stocks in health care companies while pushing for legislation that would affect their stock prices. Since 2012, Congressman Price bought and sold stock in roughly 40 health care, pharmaceutical, and biomedical companies, including a dozen during the 114th Congress. At the same time, he sponsored nine and co-sponsored 35 health-related bills in the House. Ethics lawyers in both parties have advised against trading to avoid even the appearance of placing profit over policy. [Wall Street Journal, [12/22/16](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17]

Congressman Price is so out of touch that he has voted against numerous commonsense, bipartisan proposals.

- **Price voted against protecting women from violence and against fair pay.** In 2013, Congressman Price voted against the bipartisan reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and he described the Paycheck Fairness Act as a “reward to cronies”. [House Roll Call 55, [2/28/13](#); Floor Remarks, [7/31/08](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17]
- **Price has been a roadblock to supporting the LGBTQ population.** Congressman Price voted against legislation to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” he opposed legislation that would help prevent workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, he voted in support of a Constitutional Amendment to ban same-sex marriage, and he called the Supreme Court’s ruling in favor of marriage equality “a sad day for marriage.” [House Vote 638, [12/15/10](#); Buzzfeed, [11/29/16](#); New York Times, [11/28/16](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17]
- **If it were up to Congressman Price, the old Confederate flag would still be flying.** As a state senator, Congressman Price voted against shrinking the size of the Confederate emblem on Georgia’s state flag. [Atlanta Journal Constitution, [12/5/16](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17]

Congressman Price Has Fought to Roll Back Women's Access to Health Care, Including Birth Control

Congressman Price has led the fight to turn back the clock on women's health and rights. Throughout his time in Congress, Price has voted 46 times to roll back women's constitutionally protected rights and has repeatedly co-sponsored and voted for legislation to restrict access to abortion care. He has consistently received ratings of 100% from the National Right to Life Committee and zero ratings from Planned Parenthood. [New York Times, [11/28/16](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/6/17]

Congressman Price opposes federal funding for Planned Parenthood. Price has repeatedly voted to defund Planned Parenthood health centers, family planning services through the Title X program that provide critical preventive primary care for women, and the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program. [Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/6/17]

Congressman Price opposes the birth control coverage provided by the ACA. Price's plan to repeal the ACA would eliminate the requirement that health insurance plans cover preventive services at no additional cost, such as birth control. When asked about the contraception coverage benefit for women, Congressman Price said, "Bring me one woman who has been left behind. Bring me one. There's not one." [Video, Conservative Political Action Conference, [2/23/12](#); Senate HELP Committee hearing, 1/17/17]